

NOMINATION FOR AWARD		
AWARD Outstanding PA Senior Noncommissioned Officer	CATEGORY (If Applicable) Individual	AWARD PERIOD 1 Jan - 31 Dec 01
RANK/NAME OF NOMINEE (First, Middle Initial, Last) MSgt Thomas J. Saunders	SSN (Enter Last 4 Only) 5170	MAJCOM, FOA, OR DRU AFMC
DAFSC/DUTY TITLE 3N071/Superintendent, Public Affairs	NOMINEE'S TELEPHONE (DSN & Commercial) 872-3931; (850) 882-3931	
UNIT/OFFICE SYMBOL/STREET ADDRESS/BASE/STATE/ZIP CODE AAC/PA, 101 W.D. Avenue, Suite 110, Eglin AFB FL 32542-5498		
RANK/NAME OF UNIT COMMANDER (First, Middle Initial, Last)/COMMANDER'S TELEPHONE (DSN & Commercial) Brig Gen Robert W. Chedister DSN: 872-5422; (850) 882-5422 robert.chedister@eglin.af.mil		
SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Use single-spaced, bullet format)		
<p>Overall Effectiveness & Job Accomplishments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom isn't your average garden-variety Senior NCO--he's the farm, wagon and horse you ride in on - Decisive and determined, he arrived at Eglin and filled an 18-month gap in superintendent leadership - Innovative. He stepped in and updated, revised and created operating instructions, contingency plans, exercise evaluation scenarios and rating criteria, and a comprehensive office training plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Developed numerous crisis scenarios to fine-tune staff PA skills; resulted in "excellent" ORI rating -- During subsequent exercises, enhanced and expanded training opportunities by brilliantly crafting scenarios to include tenant PA shops; efforts maximized reach and overarching value of training -- Tackled office operating instructions, creating seven new ones and updating the existing 17 ensuring office policies reflect AF policies; improved the consistency and quality of how staffers tackle tasks -- Initiated a training program to enhance the base newspaper; created a 24-week editorial schedule for the internal staff with detailed task breakdown that strengthened the strategic focus on key issues - No. 4 batter! A cleanup hitter. Tom is a perfect blend of hard core hooah and compassionate mentor! <p>Leadership/Organizational & Planning Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting people recognized, preparing airmen for future growth, steering the office toward successful performance in inspections: Some leaders think it's part of their job, for Tom leading is a way of life - Every day in the 'shop' has been geared toward making the Air Armament Center PA office the best <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- He organized and planned until the cows came home: his training led to an Excellent ORI rating, he wrote an award packet earning "NCO best in command" honors; guided two cross-trainees into PA - Comes up big in big events; as liaison to Armament Product Directorate, used knowledge of key programs and players to arrange myriad media opportunities during annual Air Armament Summit - Earned kudos from OASD PA for hard work in support of Joint Civilian Orientation Conference - Sets the example: as an exercise evaluator he could simply watch and evaluate office members, instead Tom 'plays' in exercises frequently to instill a sense of team and to ensure the training is value added - Leads the way: with A-bag and C-bag in tote, Tom deployed to Tuzla, Bosnia, as a volunteer to help AFMC alleviate a manpower crunch; sent message to junior airmen that selflessness is mark of leaders - While at Tuzla, Tom received 2 Outstanding Senior NCO Command coins from two different bosses for his volunteer work spearheading change of command ceremony and a letters to families program <p>Judgment and Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make no bones about it, Tom knows his role is to prepare people to replace him, steer the office in a direction that supports Air Force and DoD policies, and be prepared to work hard to reach those goals - Faces challenging tasks every day and relies on his 22+ years of experience to make things happen - Evaluated newspaper production process to identify strengths and weaknesses, then crafted schedule - Ensured individuals' training plans accurately reflected what individuals were doing by observing each airman, asking questions, then updating training records and re-doing the office master training plan - Deciding fewer was better, Tom was the sole PA rep responsible for holding the fort down the night Tropical Storm Barry fizzled its way to Fort Walton Beach; an example of sacrificing self for team - Respected among peers! Sat in as a member of three quarterly boards based on his valued judgment - Interviewed six airmen for cross training into PA and forwarded two, both of whom were accepted <p>Communication Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kennedy-like accent aside, Tom is articulate and thoughtful in every form of communication - Past experience as a Stars and Stripes reporter, DINFOS instructor, and USEUCOM plans NCOIC provide Tom with a background in every element of writing today's leaders must master for success - As liaison to the Armament Product Directorate, he often tackles complex hi-tech munitions topics in the process of coordinating media requests and queries--very complicated stuff made to look simple. - Well-respected in battle staff meetings for his accurate PA assessments and clear speaking skills - Received calls from former DINFOS students who still solicit his feedback on stories and newspapers 		

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